



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) 516 West Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904
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October 31, 2022

Melissa Doehring
Planning and Policy Unit
Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance
1901 North DuPont Highway/P O Box 906
New Castle, DE 19720-0906

RE: 26 DE Reg. 294 [DHSS/DMMA Proposed State Plan Telemedicine Services Regulation (October 1, 2022)]

Dear Ms. Doehring:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS)/Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) proposal to amend the Title XIX Medicaid State Plan to remove telemedicine as a state plan service. Council **supports** the proposed amendment.

Telemedicine is an alternative to the traditional office visit way of providing medical care. By removing telemedicine from the Medicaid State Plan, DMMA will be able to continue to cover telemedicine and telehealth services the way it did during the recent pandemic. The greater flexibility will enable it to respond more quickly to any changes needed in the way medical services are delivered. The DMMA approach will allow it to maintain telemedicine services without any interruption caused by the need for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval. Telemedicine and telehealth services can help persons with disabilities obtain necessary health care.

We would like DMMA to ensure that the consumer is in charge of his/her healthcare and has the final decision when determining if telemedicine is the best method of care for them. Consumer control should always be emphasized as much as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our support and comments. Please feel free to contact Pam Weir or me should you have any questions on our comments or request.

Sincerely,

Ann C Fisher

Ann C. Fisher
Chairperson

ACF: kpc